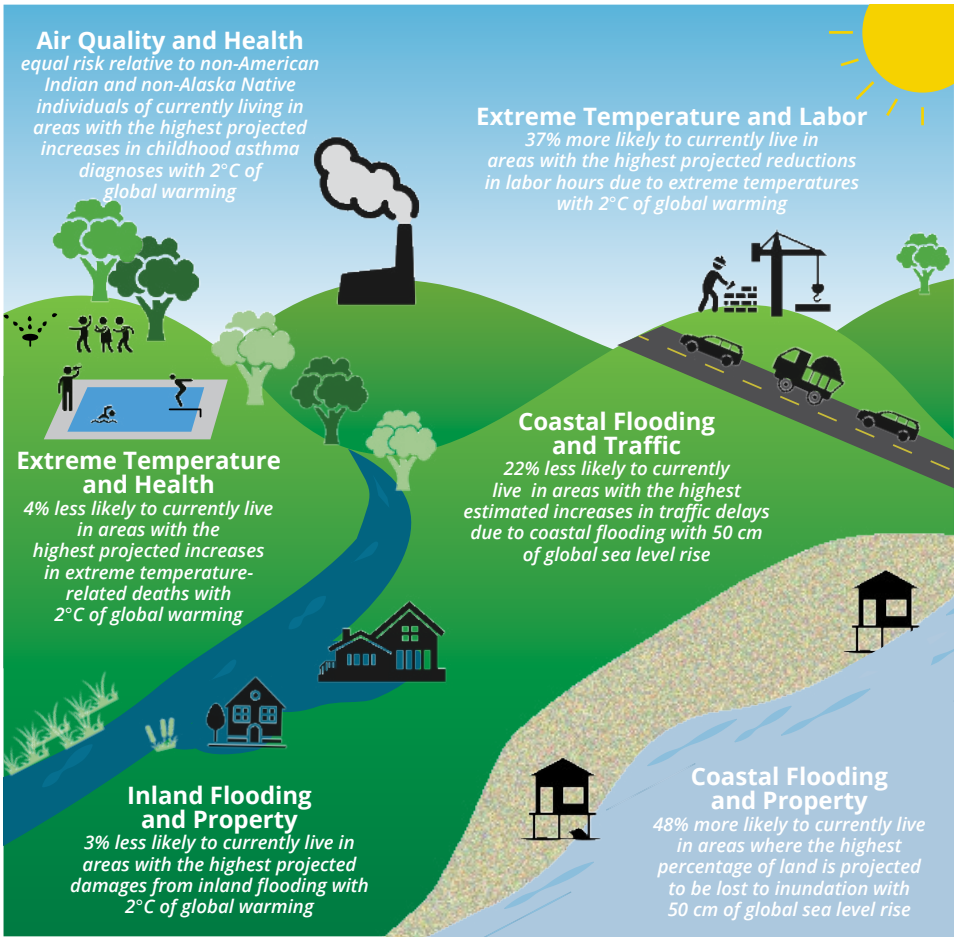
Findings on Disproportionate Risks of Climate Change to American Indian and Alaska Native Individuals

Climate change impacts will likely increase in both frequency and magnitude over the coming decades across the United States, with risks to human health, the economy, and the environment. Importantly, these risks are not equally distributed across the population. Understanding the potential disproportionate impacts on socially vulnerable groups is critical for developing effective strategies to address these risks.

This report, *Climate Change and Social Vulnerability in the United States: A Focus on Six Impacts*, contributes to a better understanding of the degree to which four socially vulnerable populations—defined based on income, educational attainment, race and ethnicity, and age—may be more exposed to the highest impacts of climate change in six categories:

- Air Quality and Health;
- Extreme Temperature and Health;
- Extreme Temperature and Labor;
- Coastal Flooding and Traffic;
- Coastal Flooding and Property; and
- Inland Flooding and Property.



This report estimates the likelihood that American Indian and Alaska Native individuals currently live in areas where the impacts of climate change are projected to be highest, compared to non-American Indian and non-Alaska Native individuals. Results are based on current demographic distributions and projected changes in climate hazards.

The report analyzes risks to specific racial and ethnic groups relative to individuals outside of each group (the "reference" populations) in scenarios with 2°C of global warming of 50 cm of sea level rise. American Indian and Alaska Native individuals are found to be more likely than non-American Indian and non-Alaska Native individuals to currently live in areas with the highest projected impacts of climate change in two of the impact categories analyzed. In particular, American Indian and Alaska Native individuals are more likely than non-American Indian and non-Alaska Native individuals to live in areas with:

- the highest percentage of land lost to inundation; and
- the highest rates of labor hour losses for weather-exposed workers due to extreme temperatures.

For more information, please refer to the report and accompanying appendices.